

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.
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OVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

F O R T H E Y E A R 1951.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present herewith my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The Census of 1951 gave a population figure of 6,760 as compared with a population of 4,761 in 1931; an increase of 1,999 (42%) in the 20 year period. This increase is due in great measure to the inclusion of both personnel and patients in the two Polish Hospitals in the district.

The Estimated Mid Year population is 6,480 and on this figure vital statistical rates are based.

The number of births was 98 giving a rate of 15.1 per 1000 of the home population as compared with a rate of 15.5 for England and Wales. It must be pointed out that all births both in local inhabitants and in Polish persons are included in this figure.

The number of deaths was 126 giving a rate of 19.4 per 1000 of the home population as compared with a rate of 12.5 for England and Wales. Of these deaths 72 occurred in local inhabitants the other 54 occurring in Polish Persons. So that instead of a rate of 19.4, the death rate for local inhabitants is in the region of 14.4 per 1000.

Of deaths amongst local inhabitants there were 42 males and 30 females, and the ages at death showed that 62.5% were over 70 years, 23.6% were between the ages of 45 and 69, so that 86.1% of all deaths occurred in persons over the age of 45.

Tuberculosis was responsible for 26 deaths, 23 of which were due to respiratory tuberculosis and the other 3 due to other forms of tuberculosis. So that tuberculosis was responsible for 20.6% of the total deaths. But of these deaths only 3 occurred in local inhabitants, so that although the tuberculosis death rate shews the rather shockingly high level of 4.01 per 1000 of the population, as compared with a rate for England and Wales of 0.31 per 1000, a truer rate for ~~Overton~~ Rural District is nearer 0.6 per 1000 of the population excluding Poles. It should be emphasised that the No. 4 Polish Hospital at Iscoyd is a hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis in Polish People and many of these have no domicile in Great Britain other than the hospital concerned, so that the deaths are recorded in and returned as occurring in this Rural District.

Infantile Mortality was high since 8 children - 6 males and 2 females - died under 1 year of age, this gave an infantile mortality rate of 81.6 per 1000 live births as compared with a rate for England and Wales of 29.6. Local infants accounted for 5 of these deaths, 3 dying from congenital defects.

There were 17 deaths due to cancer and of this total 6 occurred in local inhabitants.

The year under consideration was comparatively free from any major infectious disease, though an outbreak of influenza in the early part of the year was noted. There were 4 deaths from influenza 3 from Pneumonia 6 from bronchitis and 2 from other respiratory diseases.

In conclusion Gentlemen I must thank all concerned for continued support during the year, particularly your Clerk Mr. Hothersall-Buckley and your Sanitary Inspector Mr. R. L. Higgins.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

A. Cathcart.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	.....	.....	.....	29,749
Census 1951	.....	.....	.....	6,760
Population (Estimated June 1951)			.....	6,480
Density	.....	.....	.....	.2
Inhabited houses	.....	.....	.....	1,350
New houses certified		.....	.....	31
Births	.....	.....	.....	98
Birth rate per 1000	...	.....	.....	15.1
Deaths	.....	.....	.....	126
Death rate per 1000	...	.....	.....	19.4
Deaths under the age of 1 year	...	.....		8
Infantile Mortality per 1000 related Births				81.6
Death rate from all forms of Tuberculosis				4.07
Local Death rate	.....	.....	..... per 1000	14.4
Tuberculosis per 1000 ..	.....	.....	.....	0.3

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Rateable Value	.....	.....	.....	£22,617.
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate	.....	.....	.....	£ 88-8-7d.

The Rural District of Overton is a completely detached part of Flintshire, situated to the South-east of the County on the English bank of the Dee. Set on the borders of England and Wales the area, roughly shaped like a diamond is 11 miles from East to West and 6 miles from North to South. The River Dee with Denbighshire beyond bounds the District in the West, whilst to the North lies Cheshire and to the East and South Shropshire.

The whole district is fertile and well cultivated so that the principal industries are agriculture and its associated rural undertakings.

It is one of the richest milk producing areas in the whole country.



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GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES
IN THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority consist of:-

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Allen Cathcart, M.B. C.H.B. D.T.M. & H.D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

Mr. R. L. Higgins, M.R.S.I.

2. Laboratory Facilities

This work is carried out by the Bacteriological Department Royal Infirmary, Chester, The Bacteriological Department of the University of Liverpool and the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Conway, the latter being used particularly for the Bacteriological Examination of Water Samples. The Examination of Milk Samples is done at the University College of North Wales, Bangor.

3. Ambulance Facilities

With the coming into effect of the National Health Service, these facilities are now under the control of the Deeside and Clwyd Hospital Board and the Flintshire County Council.

4. Hospitals

Infectious diseases. - Wrexham Isolation Hospital.

General. - Hospitals outside the County are used for General cases:-

Royal Infirmary, Chester.

Wrexham War Memorial Hospital.

Wrexham Emergency Hospital.

Ellesmere Cottage Hospital.

Whitchurch Cottage Hospital.

It may be mentioned here that two large Ministry of Pensions Hospitals for Polish Persons are situated in the area:

(a) No. 3 Polish General Hospital situate at Penley - general cases.

(b) No. 4 Polish General Hospital situate at Iscoyd for tuberculosis.

5. Maternity

Patients are admitted when necessary to a Maternity Home either at Gresford or Wrexham (both homes being outside the County).

6. Clinics.

During the year a Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic at Penley continued to function satisfactorily. Extremely valuable help from a Voluntary Welfare Committee of local ladies is very much appreciated by all concerned with the running of this Clinic.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Diphtheria Prophylactic Antigen is issued free to Medical Practitioners for the immunization of children in the area. In addition children are immunized at the Child Welfare Clinic Penley and in Schools.

During the year 45 children between the ages of 1 and 9 years were immunized. The percentage of all children immunized from 1937 to 1951 inclusive is 49.9%. This is not satisfactory and efforts are being made to raise the numbers of children immunized.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

TUBERCULOSIS

No action taken.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	3
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-
Measles	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>ALL CAUSES</u> -----		<u>M</u> 91	<u>F</u> 35
1.	Tuberculosis Respiratory	20	3
2.	Tuberculosis other	3	-
3.	Syphilitic Disease	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	-	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach)	4	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm (Lung. Bronchus)	4	-
12.	Malignant Neoplasm (Breast)	-	1
13.	Malignant Neoplasm (Uterus)	-	-
14.	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	1
15.	Leukaemia Aleukasmia	1	-
16.	Diabetes	1	-
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	4
18.	Coronary Disease (Angina)	7	3
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	2
20.	Other Heart Disease	13	4
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	2	1
22.	Influenza	1	3
23.	Pneumonia	2	1
24.	Bronchitis	3	3
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	1
27.	Gastritis Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
30.	Pregnancy Childbirth	-	-
31.	Congenital Malformations	2	1
32.	Other Defined or ill-defined Diseases	11	5
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-
34.	All other Accidents	-	-
35.	Suicide	-	-
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	-	-

Total Deaths 126

Death Rate 19.4 per 1000
Home Population.

Local Death Rate ... 14.4 per 1000
Local Inhabitants.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DURING THE YEAR 1951.

Disease	Under 1	1 and under 3	3 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 25	over 25	Non Civil ian	Total
Small Pox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ophthalmia)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Neonatorum)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Cerebro Spinal) Fever)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Tabulated new cases for 1951.

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	-	-
5-10	-	-	-	-	-
10-25	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	2	-	-	-	2
35-45	-	1	-	-	1
45-55	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	1	-	-	-	1
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-

EXTRACTS from the VITAL STATISTICS for the YEAR

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>BIRTHS</u>	LEGITIMATE	54	41	95
	ILLEGITIMATE	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
	Total	56	42	98

Birth rate per 1,000 population 15.1
 Birth rate England and Wales 15.5

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	LEGITIMATE	1	3	4
	ILLEGITIMATE	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
	Total	2	3	4

Rate per 1,000 population 6.1
 Rate for England and Wales 3.6

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>DEATHS</u>	91	35	126

Death rate per 1,000 population 19.4
 Death Rate for England and Wales 12.5

Deaths from diseases and accidents of Pregnancy and Child Birth: 3

From Sepsis Nil

From other causes 3

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	4	-
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	4	-

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

All infants per 1,000 live births 81.6
 Rate for England and Wales 29.6

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-	-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	14	3

**Comparative Table of Birth Rates, Civilian
Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and
Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in 1951.**

	<u>Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population</u>	
<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>	<u>Overton R.D.</u>
Live Births	15.5	15.1
Still Births	0.36	0.61
<u>DEATHS</u>		
All Causes	12.5	19.4
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.31	4.06
Influenza	0.38	0.61
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis &)		
Polioencephalitis)	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.61	0.46
<u>NOTIFICATIONS</u>		
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.00
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.11	0.00
Whooping Cough	3.87	0.00
Diphtheria	0.02	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Measles	14.07	0.35
Pneumonia	0.99	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis &) Paralytic	0.03	0.00
Polioencephalitis) Non-		
Paralytic	0.02	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.00

RATES PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.

<u>DEATHS</u>		
All causes under 1 year of age -	29.6	81.6
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age -	1.4	0.0

<u>NOTIFICATIONS</u>	<u>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still Births)</u>	
Puerperal Fever & Pyrexia	10.66	9.8

INFANTILE MORTALITY

DEATHS OF INFANTS under 1 year of Age

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 Live Births</u>
Total	6	2	
Legitimate	6	2	81.6
Illegitimate	-	-	

The causes of Infant Deaths was as follows:-

All infant deaths were due to prematurity or Congenital defects

Except: 1. Male age 2 months Grrhocis of Liver.

2. Male age 7 months Cerebral Oedema &
Purulent Periostitis.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MILK SUPPLY

Dairying being the chief branch of agriculture in the area there is an abundant quantity of milk produced. The majority of the producers hold Accredited Licences, and an encouraging number of premises have reached Attested standard. This satisfactory position is due in no small measure to the Councils' progressive policy of mains water supply distribution to the outlying hamlets and collection of farms. Although the availability of electric power mains is still somewhat limited, more farm premises have been able to acquire milking machines.

2. MILK SAMPLES

The County Police and County Sanitary Inspector undertaking the sampling of milk under the Food and Drugs Acts.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCE OF THE AREA.

1. WATER - The Council's comprehensive mains water distribution scheme continues without interruption, and a further 5 miles of 4 and 3 inch diameter pipes have been laid during the year.
2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL - No new schemes have been undertaken during the year. The provision of mains water in the villages without sewerage services will, of course, necessitate the provision of these facilities very soon.
3. PUBLIC CLEANSING - Refuse collection is operated weekly in parts of the Parish of Bangor-is-y-coed and fortnightly in the Parish of Overton. Schemes are contemplated for other Parishes, and the Council has acquired a new central refuse tip at Penley.
4. SHOPS AND OFFICES - No action has been necessary.
5. CAMPING SITES - No camping sites existing within the district.
6. SMOKE ABATEMENT - No action has been required.
7. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS - None in existence in the district.
8. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS - No action has been found necessary.
9. RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911 & 1928 - No action has been found necessary.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. - INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	M/C line No. (2)	No. on Register. (3)	Inspect- ions. (4)	Number of: written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	M/C line No. (7)
(1)Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4,&6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	3	6	Nil	Nil	1
(2)Factories not included in (1)in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	12	18	4	"	2
(3)Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	"	3
TOTAL -	6	15	24	4	Nil	6

2. - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

<u>Particulars</u> (1)	M/C line No. (2)	Found. (3)	Remedied. (4)	Referred to H.M. Inspect. (5)	Number of Defects: Offences in respect of which Prosecut- ions were instit- uted (6)	M/C line No. (7)
Want of Clean- liness (S.1)	4	3	3	-	-	4
Overcrowding(S.2)	5	Nil	Nil	-	-	5
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	6	"	"	-	-	6
Inadequate ven- tilation(S.4)	7	"	"	-	-	7
Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6)	8	"	"	-	-	8
Sanitary Conven- iences (S.7):						
(a)insufficient	9	1	1	-	-	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	Nil	Nil	-	-	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	"	"	-	-	11
Other offences against the Act.	12	"	"	-	-	12
TOTAL -	60	4	4	Nil	Nil	60

